



Serial No. 10/730,264

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 1 and ADD new claims 4-6 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A gas laser oscillation device, comprising:
a plurality of discharge sections that are respectively provided with electrodes for discharge; ~~and~~
a plurality of power sources for discharge excitation that supply discharge power to the discharge sections and are respectively connected with the electrodes of the plurality of discharge sections; and
means for changing output mode, including:
means for adjusting a distribution of an amount of discharge power supplied to the discharge sections from the plurality of power sources that supply discharge power to at least two of the discharge sections, so far as the amount of discharge power supplied to any one of the discharge sections is not zero; and
means for changing combinations of beam modes that are different from one another, beams being excited in at least two discharge sections;
wherein said plurality of discharge sections include at least two discharge sections in which mutually different beam modes are excited when respective independent discharges are produced; based on one of (a) and (b):
(a) the electrodes provided in each of the discharge sections differ from one another in regard to at least one of dimensions, shape and construction; and
(b) the discharge sections differ from one another in regard to at least one of dimensions and shape.
~~of said plurality of power sources for discharge excitation, the power sources for discharge excitation that supply discharge power to at least two discharge sections can adjust the distribution of the amount of discharge power supplied to these at least two discharge sections.~~
2. (Original) The gas laser oscillation device according to claim 1 wherein, in the

combination of said discharge sections, the electrodes that are respectively provided in the discharge sections differ in regard to at least one of dimensions, shape or construction.

3. (Original) The gas laser oscillation device according to claim 1 wherein, in the combination of said discharge sections, the discharge sections differ in regard to at least one of dimensions or shape.

4. (New) A gas laser oscillation device, comprising:
at least two discharge sections provided with electrodes, each of the discharge sections having different transverse beam modes excited when independent discharges are produced;
and
at least two power sources, one of the power sources connected to one of the electrodes in each discharge section and supplying discharge power to the discharge sections, the power sources being individually adjustable such that discharge may be produced independently in each of the discharge sections.

5. (New) A method of controlling beam mode in a gas laser oscillation device, comprising:
providing discharge power from at least two power sources to electrodes provided in at least two discharge sections, the discharge power provided to at least two discharge sections being produced independently, the power sources capable of being individually adjusted to set the discharge power supplied to the respective discharge sections;
wherein mutually different beam modes are excited in at least two discharge sections when respective independent discharges are produced.

6. (New) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:
altering the distribution of power supplied to the discharge sections to produce beam modes intermediate between a first and a second beam mode, the first beam mode being obtained when discharge is effected solely in a first discharge section and the second beam mode being obtained when discharge is effected solely in a second discharge section.